







# Demoness Go See the Emperor - Chapter 01-07

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# Introduction

**Demoness Go See The Emperor (降龙悍丫头 ) by Mei Bei Le (梅贝尔)**

51 Chapters, HE.

Male Lead – Na Lam



Likes: Martial Arts and weapons

Dislikes: Being the emperor

Female Lead – Ling Fei



Likes: Martial Arts and beating the emperor

Dislikes: Becoming the empress

### Synopsis

Na Lam ascends the throne at the age of fifteen. The empress dowager worries her son is too arrogant and selfish to be a good emperor. The empress dowager recruits Ling Fei the daughter of a trustworthy ally to moderate Na Lam's arrogance.

Na Lam doesn't want the commoner Ling Fei to become his empress. Ling Fei promises Na Lam if he can defeat her in a dual then she'll ask the empress

dowager to break their betrothal.

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# One



## Chapter One

In the palace Na Lam competed against his imperial guards.

‘How can you men call yourself skilful fighters?’ Na Lam asked. ‘In less than three moves I’ve defeated all of you. Useless!’

‘Your majesty, your fighting skills are extraordinary,’ Cao Qian praised. ‘We’re not worthy to be your opponents. Jing Lu what do you think?’

‘Yes, Yes,’ Jing Lu diplomatically agreed. ‘Cao Qian is right. Your majesty’s Kung Fu is almost at a deity level. Even the world’s number one swordsman isn’t worthy to be called your majesty’s opponent. Your majesty, I’m truly in awe of you.’

‘Everyone here only has fast tongues,’ Na Lam criticized but he was secretly happy to hear everyone’s praises. ‘Jing Lu it’s your turn.’

‘Your majesty, last night I had diarrhea,’ Jing Lu said. ‘I fear I have no energy to fight. Your majesty, can I forfeit?’

Jing Lu was unhappy to fight the emperor because he couldn’t attack the emperor. He rather admit defeat than his body being bruised.

‘Is that true?’ Na Lam asked.

‘Yes, yes!’ Jing Lu lied. ‘If your majesty doesn’t believe me then you can ask Cao Qian who shares the same chamber as me.’

Jing Lu thought it was Cao Qian’s fault for asking his advice.

Cao Qian glared at Jing Lu who added to his sufferings. But he wasn’t going spare Jing Lu.

‘Your majesty, Jing Lu had a stomach ache,’ Cao Qian said. ‘But he’s a master glutton. Your majesty fighting with him will help him lose weight.’

‘Cao Qian, we’re not enemies but why do you want to drown me?’ Jing Lu asked.

‘It’s called sharing blessings and sufferings,’ Cao Qian said.

‘Jing Lu, come here and fight,’ Na Lam said.

‘Yes, your majesty,’ Jing Lu said.

Jing Lu reluctantly stood in a fighting stance. He waved his fists in the air but he didn’t use his full strength.

Na Lam used full force to hit Jing Lu’s chest.

Jing Lu secretly let the emperor hit his chest.

‘Ah!’ Jing Lu cried out and purposely fell on the ground.

‘Your majesty, today I lost to your majesty,’ Jing Lu said. ‘Indeed no one is worthy to be your majesty’s opponent.’

Jing Lu didn’t care about over praising the emperor because praises coming out his mouth didn’t cost him money.

‘Your majesty, your fighting skills are improving each day,’ a chorus of eunuchs praised and applauded.

‘Everyone here is a disappointment!’ Na Lam said. ‘If none of you can defeat me then how can you keep the palace safe?’

‘Your majesty is right,’ Xiao Shun Tu said. ‘The imperial guards are useless. It’s better for them to go home and eat.’

Xiao Shun Tu was the emperor’s trusted personal eunuch. He knew praising

the emperor would make the emperor happy.

Cao Qian and Jing Lu exchanged a secret glance. They worked together for many years and they could communicate with each other without exchanging words.

‘Your majesty, we’re not worthy to be your opponents but perhaps there is someone who is,’ Cao Qian said.

Na Lam’s eyes lit up. ‘Who?’

‘Your majesty, below the sky and in front of you,’ Cao Qian said and looked unsympathetically at Xiao Shun Tu.

Xiao Shun Tu’s body from head to feet turned cold.

‘Nonsense... your majesty don’t listen to them...’ Xiao Shun Tu pleaded.

Xiao Shun Tu was responsible for protecting the emperor. Of course he knew Kung Fu. But he wouldn’t dare to fight with the emperor.

‘What is it?’ Na Lam asked. ‘Do you think I can’t defeat you?’

Xiao Shun Tu served a scary tiger and he knew he had to sacrifice his body to appease the emperor.

‘Your majesty, I’m not worthy to be your majesty’s opponent,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

‘Come here and fight!’ Na Lam said impatiently.

‘Yes, your majesty,’ Xiao Shun Tu said pitifully.

Xiao Shun Tu glared at Cao Qian and Jing Lu for making him sacrifice his body. His heart vowed to take revenge on Cao Qian and Jing Lu.

Na Lam rotated his wrists and he punched Xiao Shun Tu.

‘Ah... I’m dead... it hurts...’ Xiao Shun Tu said pitifully and rubbed his stomach.

‘What pain?’ Na Lam asked. ‘My fist barely touched you.’

Xiao Shun Tu pitied himself. He realised he cried out in pain too soon. His legs wobbled in anticipation of pain.

Cao Qian and Jing Lu laughed softly. They thought Xiao Shun Tu needed them

to teach Xiao Shun Tu how to act without getting caught.

Xiao Shun Tu knelt in front of the emperor and he held onto the emperor's leg like a worm begging a dragon not to step on it.

'Your majesty, I'm your useless servant,' Xiao Shun Tu said. 'I'm not worthy to be your majesty's opponent. But my heart will always look up to your majesty.'

'Whoa!' Jing Lu cried out. 'He confessed everything in his heart.'

Cao Qian laughed. 'Jing Lu, it appears we need to learn from Xiao Shun Tu too.'

'Yes, yes,' Jing Lu happily agreed. 'This AH eunuch's tongue knows what sweet words to say.'

'Everyone leave!' Na Lam ordered.

Everyone feared the emperor's temper and they immediately left the emperor's courtyard. Except Xiao Shun Tu was forced to stay and his body would be sacrificed pitifully under the emperor's temper.

'Your majesty, who dared to anger you?' Xiao Shun Tu asked. 'Your servant will deal with that daring person in your majesty's stead.'

'Do you dare?' the emperor asked. 'It's those old court officials who only knows how to criticize me. I want to demote them all and send them to remote farms.'

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End of Chapter One

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# Two



## Chapter Two

‘Your majesty, your court officials are loyal to you,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

Xiao Shun Tu lowered his head and his voice. ‘Their honest words are hard to hear. Your majesty, don’t take it to heart.’

‘What honest words?’ Na Lam asked. ‘I only see they want to commit treason! I’m the emperor but in front of me they dare to criticize me. If my imperial father didn’t give them imperial tablets then I would have beheaded all of them by now.’

‘Your majesty, I believe if you give them time they will see your true abilities and treat you better,’ Xiao Shun Tu said. ‘Your majesty, compared to your majesty they live lowly on the ground under your sky. Your majesty doesn’t need to be too concerned about them.’

‘If they dare to criticize me again then I’m not going to spare them!’ Na Lam said.

Xiao Shun Tu wasted sweat. ‘Yes, yes.’

‘Change my clothes!’ Na Lam ordered and stretched his arms.

‘Yes, your majesty,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

Xiao Shun Tu efficiently took off the emperor's crown and official imperial gold clothes. Then he helped the emperor changed into comfortable gold clothes.

'Your majesty, where do you want to go?' Xiao Shun Tu asked.

'Of course to the imperial guards' courtyard,' Na Lam said. 'I still haven't vented enough.'

'Your majesty-' Xiao Shun Tu said.

'I need to use all my strength to fight Cao Qian and Jing Lu,' Na Lam said.

Na Lam ignored the palace maids and eunuchs who knelt in front of him.

'Yes, your majesty,' Xiao Shun Tu said.

Xiao Shun Tu wanted to cry.

A while later Cao Qian and Jing Lu were forced to use different methods to lose in a way that satisfied the emperor.

Na Lam defeated Jing Lu. 'Fight again!'

'Your majesty, perhaps you should take a rest,' Xiao Shun Tu suggested. 'Your majesty must be tired after fighting for a long time.'

'Who said I'm tired?' Na Lam asked. 'Cao Qian!'

'Yes, your majesty,' Cao Qian said.

Xiao Shun Tu rubbed his sweaty forehead.

In the shadows the empress dowager was talking with a young lady Ling Fei who the empress dowager invited to stay in the palace the past few days.

The empress dowager shook her head helplessly. 'The emperor's behaviour is becoming poorer by the day. He forces the imperial guards to fight with him. He doesn't care that many lives rely on him being alive and performing his imperial duties. If something bad happens, who'll take responsibility? Ling Fei, I'm relying on you to change the emperor's bad behaviour.'

'Empress dowager, I fear I'll only disappoint you,' Ling Fei said.

'Ling Fei, even you don't have a solution?' the empress dowager asked. 'Apart from you, I don't know who else can help me. Ling Fei, I believe you do have a

solution. Regardless of what methods you use, I'll support you fully.'

The empress dowager remembered how impressive Ling Fei was as a little girl and she believed the young lady Ling Fei would have a solution.

'But the emperor's body is precious gold,' Ling Fei said. 'I'm scared if I'm not careful and use too much force... I'll injure the emperor.'

'That is the emperor's own fault for not learning how to be a good fighter,' the empress dowager said. 'I'll not blame you. You're my guest and you have my permission to do anything to change the emperor's bad behaviour.'

Ling Fei didn't have the heart to refuse the empress dowager's sincere request and she reluctantly nodded her head.

'I'll help empress dowager,' Ling Fei said.

The empress dowager was happy Ling Fei accepted her request. She gratefully held Ling Fei's small hand. 'Thank you Ling Fei. My heart will always remember your good deed.'

'Empress dowager, a thousand times you don't need to thank me,' Ling Fei said. 'If the emperor becomes a good ruler it'll be the citizen's blessing. If I can help the emperor become a better ruler then I'll use all my capabilities.'

'Then I'll give the emperor to you,' the empress dowager said.

The empress dowager felt like a burden that weighed a thousand pieces of gold had fallen off her shoulders.

Ling Fei looked back at the imperial guards' courtyard. All the imperial guards purposely fell on the ground.

Ling Fei like a swift small bird flew into the courtyard and she landed in front of Na Lam.

Cao Qian and Jing Lu immediately stood and they shielded the emperor from the stranger.

'Who are you?' Na Lam asked. 'Are you tired of living? Don't you know entering the palace without permission is a crime punished by death?'

The empress dowager quickly entered the courtyard. She didn't want anyone

to misunderstand Ling Fei.

‘She is Ling Fei,’ the empress dowager said. ‘Ling Fei is my guest I invited to the palace. Everyone leave.’

Cao Qian and Jing Lu were relieved Ling Fei wasn’t an assassin and they ran away from the courtyard.

Na Lam arrogantly assessed the beautiful young lady who had fast arms and legs. He thought she was a little girl who still drank breastmilk.

‘Imperial mother, if she is your guest then why haven’t I heard about her before?’ Na Lam asked.

‘Ling Fei isn’t an ordinary guest,’ the empress dowager said. ‘She is also your future empress.’

The empress dowager’s words not only scared Na Lam but it also scared Ling Fei.

‘Empress dowager-’ Ling Fei said.

The empress dowager secretly winked at Ling Fei to signal to Ling Fei not to reveal their plan.

‘Imperial mother, when did I say I wanted a wife?’ Na Lam asked.

Na Lam had forgotten he had met Ling Fei a few years ago.

‘How old are you?’ the empress dowager asked. ‘You’re old enough to marry and have children. At your age your imperial father married me and I gave birth to you. Ling Fei’s father is your imperial father’s savior. If her father didn’t save your imperial father’s life then you wouldn’t be born. That’s why I want Ling Fei to be your empress.’

‘Imperial mother, because you want to repay her father for saving imperial father’s life you’re asking me to marry someone I don’t know?’ Na Lam asked. ‘I’m the emperor, I refuse to marry a commoner.’

Ling Fei patiently waited for a good opportunity to interrupt the empress dowager and Na Lam’s conversation. She was resolute to help the empress dowager.

‘Your majesty, if you can defeat me in a dual then our betrothal will cease to exist,’ Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei knew Na Lam’s fighting skills had no possibility of defeating her in a dual.

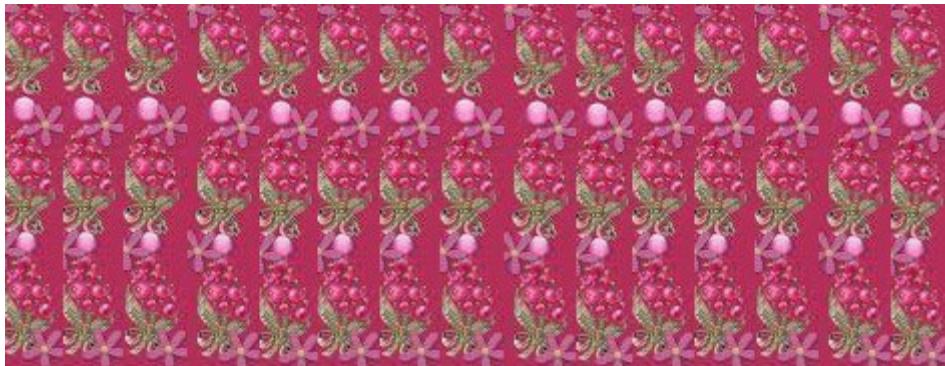
Na Lam laughed coldly. ‘You need to keep your promise.’

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End of Chapter Two

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# Three



## Chapter Three

The empress sat, drank tea and watched an amusing performance.

The empress was impressed by Ling Fei's fighting skills. If Ling Fei followed her plan then soon Ling Fei would become her precious daughter-in-law. She believed Ling Fei was someone who could understand her son and also help her control her unruly son. She praised herself for her good secret plan.

Na Lam was angry a commoner like Ling Fei dared to look straight at his eyes.

'I let you win three moves,' Na Lam said. 'I'm not going to hold back anymore!'

Na Lam didn't believe he would lose to a demoness who wasn't taller than his shoulders. He wanted to hit Ling Fei's bottom hard enough for her to cry out her parents' names to save her.

Ling Fei waved her right hand. 'Your highness, you can attack first.'

'Alright, since you're a courteous girl then I'll be merciful,' Na Lam said arrogantly.

Na Lam kicked in the direction of Ling Fei' bottom but she jumped and dodged his kick. So he decided to aim a kick at her shoulder.

'Let's see if you can hide anywhere,' Na Lam said.

'Your majesty why are you fighting like a kitten?' Ling Fei asked.

Ling Fei grabbed Na Lam's wrist and twisted his arm behind his back. Frustration was clear on his face, he was frustrated he couldn't free his arm from her hold.

‘How can your majesty boast about learning a kitten’s fighting skills?’ Ling Fei asked.

Na Lam’s face turned into green veins and he gritted his teeth. Since he was born, no dared to forcefully detain him.

‘You daring demoness!’ Na Lam cursed. ‘You dare to treat me this way? I’ll behead you! Someone arrest this demoness and behead her!’

A frightened Xiao Shun Tu ran toward the emperor.

‘What are you doing?’ Xiao Shun Tu asked Ling Fei. ‘Why aren’t you releasing the emperor? If the emperor is injured then you’ll die!’

‘Your majesty, are you admitting defeat?’ Ling Fei asked.

Ling Fei let go of Na Lam’s arm.

Na Lam couldn’t accept he lost to someone like Ling Fei.

‘Earlier I let you win,’ Na Lam lied. ‘So it didn’t count. We can fight again and this time I’ll defeat you.’

‘Alright, if your majesty needs to fight again to accept your loss then I’ll oblige,’ Ling Fei said.

‘This time you need to be careful,’ Na Lam said.

Na Lam believed he wasn’t focused earlier so there was no reason he wouldn’t win the second fight against Ling Fei.

The empress dowager’s eyes didn’t leave Ling Fei. She was impressed how Ling Fei calmly dealt with her son. Ling Fei’s small fast movements were deceptively powerful. She loved to watch Ling Fei fight and she also loved Ling Fei’s humility. Her son and Ling Fei were the same age but she felt ashamed to be a mother of such a stubborn and arrogant son.

Ling Fei moved her head and avoided Na Lam’s kick.

‘Not enough force,’ Ling Fei said.

Na Lam aimed another kick at Ling Fei’s head. ‘You deserve to die!’

Ling Fei easily dodged Na Lam’s kick.

‘Lacks core stability,’ Ling Fei said.

Na Lam was blinded with rage after he heard the demoness’ continuous criticisms of his fighting skills.

‘Your majesty, do you want to appreciate real fighting skills?’ Ling Fei asked.

Na Lam was breathing heavily but he continued to attack Ling Fei. He was determined not to lose to a demoness.

‘Prepare your incense sticks!’ Na Lam said.

Ling Fei smiled and she began to attack Na Lam.

‘Your majesty, this is how you should kick,’ Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei’s kick flowed like a bird flapping its wings and disappeared while her small palm struck Na Lam’s chest.

Ling Fei didn’t use her full strength but Na Lam stumbled three steps back. Luckily Xiao Shun Tu helped steady Na Lam before Na Lam fell onto the ground.

‘Ling Fei, you’re impressive!’ the empress dowager praised. She wasn’t even angry a little bit. She laughed and applauded Ling Fei. ‘Ling Fei, I was right about you. Son, you lost. That means yours and Ling Fei’s betrothal is intact. Half a year from now is yours and Ling Fei’s wedding.’

Na Lam’s eyes reddened with anger. He pushed Xiao Shun Tu away from him.

‘Imperial mother, I refuse to marry this demoness!’ Na Lam said.

‘Son, an emperor’s promise is binding,’ the empress dowager warned.

‘Imperial mother!’ Na Lam protested.

The empress dowager inwardly laughed at her son who was restraining his anger.

‘I should go tell your imperial grandma the good news,’ the empress dowager said. ‘I’m not free to intrude on yours and Ling Fei’s time together. You two should strengthen your bond.’

‘Imperial mother... you’re hateful!’ Na Lam said. ‘Demoness, I don’t care about how you won. But don’t dream about me marrying you!’

Ling Fei was framed. She only entered the palace to grant the empress dowager's request.

'Your majesty, don't worry,' Ling Fei said. 'I don't want to marry someone who lost to me.'

'Aren't you scared I'll behead you?' Na Lam asked.

'Of course I believe your majesty can behead anyone and no one would dare to oppose your majesty,' Ling Fei said. 'Except if you behead someone innocent then it'll soil your majesty's reputation. Your majesty needs to think carefully before you act.'

'You... demoness you dare to scold me?' Na Lam asked.

'I wouldn't dare,' Ling Fei said.

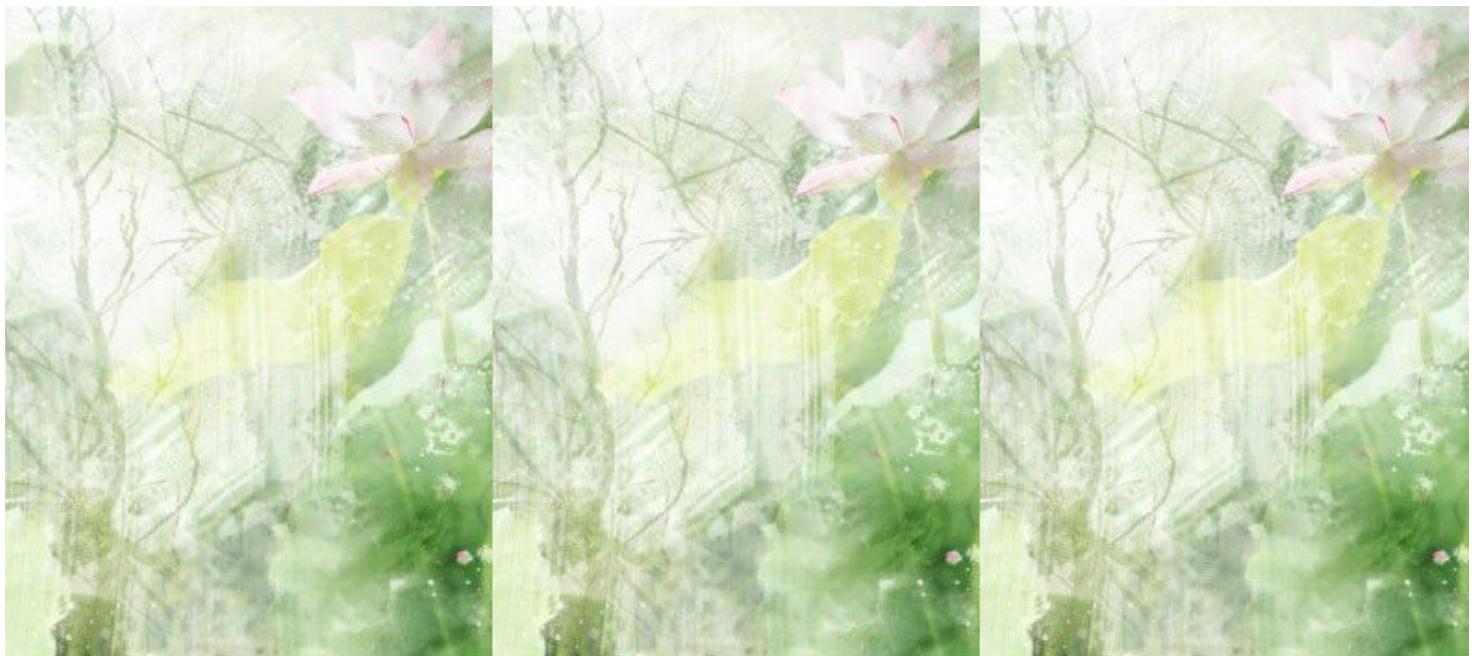
Na Lam fisted his hands. 'Alright! Tomorrow I'll wait for you here. We'll fight again. I don't believe I can't defeat you.'

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End of Chapter Three

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# Four



## Chapter Four

‘I promise I’ll be here tomorrow,’ Ling Fei said.

‘I don’t believe you would dare to not be here tomorrow,’ Na Lam said.

Na Lam was the emperor, he wouldn’t let anyone have the final word.

Ling Fei looked at Na Lam’s defiant eyes. She thought he was naive and his childish behaviour was laughable. She had her own pride. If he kept provoking her then of course she would retaliate.

‘Tomorrow I’ll be focused,’ Ling Fei said.

Na Lam felt Ling Fei left a deep impression on him. She was the first person who openly dared to oppose him.

Later that evening Na Lam practiced the Kung Fu moves his shifu taught him in his courtyard.

‘Your majesty it’s late in the evening and your majesty needs to return to your chamber and rest,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

‘Too noisy!’ Na Lam said. ‘Do you know how to be quiet? If you make me forget what my shifu taught me then I’ll behead you.’

Xiao Shun Tu closed his mouth and he didn’t dare to persuade the emperor to

sleep anymore.

Na Lam thought he was too conceited about his fighting skills, which was why his head fell beneath a demoness' feet. He would be laughed at if news of his lost to Ling Fei was spread.

Na Lam practiced what his shifu taught to the middle of the night. Even Xiao Shun Tu's eyes couldn't stay opened and Xiao Shun Tu napped while Na Lam continued to practice Kung Fu.

'Xiao Shun Tu!' Na Lam called.

Xiao Shun Tu opened his eyes wide. 'Yes, your majesty.'

'Where is the demoness staying?' Na Lam asked.

Xiao Shun Tu was thankful he asked the palace maids and eunuchs news about which chamber Ling Fei slept in.

'Your majesty, she is staying in the chamber reserved for the empress,' Xiao Shun Tu said.

'What?' Na Lam asked. 'Who gave her permission to stay there?'

Na Lam was enraged. Only his empress had the right to stay in the empress' chamber but he didn't have an empress.

'It was the empress dowager's order-' Xiao Shun Tu said.

Xiao Shun Tu thought it was obvious no one would dare stay in the empress' chamber unless the empress dowager gave permission.

Na Lam's face turned red and green. 'Imperial mother wants me to marry her? Unless the sun rises in the west, I will never marry her.'

'But it's the empress dowager's-' Xiao Shun Tu said.

'I'm the emperor,' Na Lam said. 'Imperial mother can't force me to marry her. I'm going to kick the demoness out of the palace.'

Xiao Shun Tu was sweating. He thought it wouldn't be easy for the emperor to defeat someone like Ling Fei after a few fights... no not even if they fought for years the emperor would still lose to Ling Fei. He decided he had to use a trick to let the emperor defeat Ling Fei otherwise everyone in the palace would suffer.

In the empress' chamber, Ling Fei couldn't sleep comfortably. The pillow on the bed had a strong scent, her stomach wasn't satisfied because she couldn't eat her full and the palace maids helped changed her clothes. She wasn't comfortable having other people serve her and the palace life didn't suit her.

That night Ling Fei couldn't sleep. Her heart missed her mother who lived outside the imperial city. Although Elder Qin was taking care of her mother, it was the first time she was separated from her mother.

In the morning a palace maid, Shen Huang brought dresses to Ling Fei's chamber.

'Lady Ling, the empress dowager gave you many dresses but why don't you want to wear any of the dresses?' Shen Huang asked. 'Is it because you don't like the dresses?'

Ling Fei shook her head. 'The dresses are all beautiful and good fabric quality. But I'm comfortable wearing my plain clothes.'

'Lady Ling, I think you should familiarise yourself to wearing beautiful dresses,' Shen Huang said. 'Lady Ling after you become the empress you need to dress accordingly to your status.'

Shen Huang carefully brushed Ling Fei's hair and she styled Ling Fei's hair suitable for the emperor's betrothed.

'Who told you I wanted to be the empress?' Ling Fei asked.

'The empress dowager allowed Lady Ling to stay in the empress' chamber,' Shen Huang said. 'It's a declaration to everyone Lady Ling is the future empress. Only the empress is allowed to stay here, if Lady Ling isn't going to be the empress then whom else is going to be the empress? Everyone from the sky to the ground knows who Lady Ling is. Lady Ling, you can't deny the truth.'

'Did you say...' Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei was surprised by Shen Huang's words and she finally understood what her mother's strange words a few years ago meant...

A few years ago west of the imperial city, Ling Fei returned home.

'Mother, I'm back,' Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei's hair was dusty, in one hand she held her sword and carried a bundle of vegetables in the other hand and her face was as small as her hand.

Ling Fei helped clean her home. 'Elder Qin, today I purposely starve my stomach to increase my appetite. Did you do the same too?'

'Today is a special day and we had a bigger audience,' Qin Cong said. 'We made five silver taels today. If we starve ourselves then our stomachs will change colour and tonight the food will taste better.'

'I wonder what dishes mother cooked,' Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei ran into the kitchen but the table was empty. Her mother was sitting anxiously at the empty table.

'Mother, what happened?' Ling Fei asked.

Jiang Thi's deep thoughts were broken by her daughter's voice. 'Ling Fei... ah... you're home. I haven't cooked anything. Ling Fei, you and Elder Qin should go and rest. I'll quickly cook dishes for you and Elder Qin.'

Ling Fei thought it was strange her mother was running around the kitchen. Usually her mother was calm and prepared food before she returned home.

A while later Jiang Thi brought out delicious vegetarian dishes. There was no meat or fish but it was enough for everyone.

'Big brother Qin, you should eat more,' Jiang Thi said.

If Qin Cong didn't help Jiang Thi and Ling Fei for many years, Jiang Thi wouldn't be at ease to let Ling Fei perform in busy streets and they would have starved to death on the side of a road long ago.

'Little sister, you're not well so you should eat more too,' Qin Cong said. 'You don't need to be courteous with me.'

'Big brother, I've always eaten the same portion,' Jiang Thi said. 'But big brother, you have worked hard to take care of me and Ling Fei. If it wasn't for big brother then I and Ling Fei wouldn't be alive.'

'Little sister, a thousand times you don't need to thank me!' Qin Cong said.

'Mother you shouldn't say anything else,' Ling Fei said. 'Otherwise Elder Qin

would need to find a cave to crawl into.'

'Little girl don't talk nonsense!' Jiang Thi said.

'Cong Sun Huang is my little sworn brother,' Qin Cong said. 'It's my duty to take care of little sister and Ling Fei in his stead. Little sister you don't need to thank me.'

'Big brother, I'll always remember everything you have done for me and Ling Fei,' Jiang Thi said.

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End of Chapter Four

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# Five



## Chapter Five

Ling Fei thought about the last meal she shared with her mother.

‘Mother you should eat,’ Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei picked up the best vegetables and put it into her mother’s bowl.

That night Jiang Thi couldn’t sleep. The following morning she was awoken by the sounds of firecrackers. She carefully got out of bed to not disturb her daughter then she dressed and walked into the kitchen to prepare morning dishes.

Ling Fei didn’t sleep deeply either and she woke up early too. She dressed and wore a pair of old embroidered shoes.

Ling Fei knew there was something worrying her mother because they didn’t

keep secrets from each other. She walked into the kitchen and looked anxiously at her mother who was busy cooking.

‘Mother...’ Ling Fei called.

‘Yes?’ Jiang Thi asked.

Jiang Thi was startled by her daughter’s voice and her right hand dropped a white radish on the floor.

‘Ling Fei, why did you wake up early today?’ Jiang Thi asked.

Ling Fei picked up the white radish, she put it on the table and held her mother’s hand.

‘Mother come with me,’ Ling Fei said.

‘What is it?’ Jiang Thi asked.

Ling Fei dragged her mother to their chamber.

Ling Fei sat next to her mother on the bed and her matured eyes looked into her mother’s eyes.

‘Mother what happened?’ Ling Fei asked. ‘Mother you don’t need to hide it from me anymore. Whenever there’s something worrying you, you can’t sleep at night.’

‘It appears left and right can’t be hidden,’ Jiang Thi said.

‘Mother if you don’t tell me then how can I tell others?’ Ling Fei teased.  
‘Mother you can tell me and I’ll listen attentively.’

Jiang Thi reluctantly told her daughter everything about receiving the empress dowager’s request and her worries about her daughter’s future.

Jiang Thi didn’t care if her daughter was betrothed to Na Lam years ago. ‘I don’t want you to enter the palace. I know the little emperor is temperamental. If he sees anyone as an eyesore he’ll want to behead them. The court officials are scared to lose their lives each day. I don’t want you to risk your life. I lost your father, I can’t lose you too. I declined the empress dowager’s request.’

Ling Fei had forgotten about her past meeting with Na Lam.

‘Mother, I and Elder Qin perform in the streets and have heard rumors about

the little emperor,’ Ling Fei said. ‘I think he needs someone to guide him and who he’ll listen to. If he continues being a bad emperor then sooner or later the kingdom will be destroyed in his hand. I think the empress dowager came to see us as a last resort.’

‘You talk like your father,’ Jiang Thi said. ‘He is a man of principals. He was loyal to kingdom. But what happened in the end? He sacrificed his life and you and I are left to struggle to stay alive.’

Jiang Thi clutched her handkerchief in her shaky hand.

Ling Fei hugged her fragile mother. ‘Mother, our hard life is in the past. I won’t let that person hurt us anymore.’

‘I don’t want your life to be in danger,’ Jiang Thi said. ‘Let’s leave the imperial city and not come back here anymore.’

‘Mother, running away isn’t a solution,’ Ling Fei said. ‘I’ve practiced Kung Fu each day for many years because I want to avenge father’s death. Now the opportunity has arrived. As long as I enter the palace I can see that person and find out how father died that year.’

‘Ling Fei!’ Jiang Thi said. ‘A thousand times you can’t do something that foolish!’

Jiang Thi’s heart almost stopped beating. She thought her daughter practiced Kung Fu to support their family. She didn’t think her daughter wanted to avenge her husband’s death.

‘Mother seeing your white frightened face I know you believed me,’ Ling Fei said. ‘Mother, I was only jesting.’

‘Only jesting?’ Jiang Thi asked suspiciously.

‘Of course,’ Ling Fei said. ‘Killing an imperial family member is a crime punished by death. I still have mother so I wouldn’t risk my life.’

Jiang Thi was reassured by her daughter’s words and her heart began to beat steadily.

‘You scared me to death,’ Jiang Thi said.

‘But if the empress dowager comes here to ask us for help then we can’t

decline her request,’ Ling Fei said. ‘Why don’t I go to the palace and talk to the empress dowager. If I can’t help her then I’ll have a reason to decline.’

‘That’s a good suggestion,’ Jiang Thi said. ‘Ling Fei, stay here and sleep. I’ll go back to the kitchen to cook.’

Ling Fei smiled with her mother until her mother left the chamber... she couldn’t live under the same sky as her father’s killer. She was determined to seize the opportunity to give back justice to her father.

Shen Huang didn’t notice the coldness in Ling Fei’s eyes.

‘Lady Ling, are you hungry?’ Shen Huang asked. ‘I’ll go prepare your morning meal.’

‘Shen Huang I want to see the empress dowager,’ Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei was too young when her father died and she couldn’t remember everything that happened many years ago.

‘I’ll go see Que Cong Cong,’ Shen Huang said. ‘He’s the empress dowager’s personal eunuch. I’ll pass on Lady Ling’s message that you want to the empress dowager.’

‘Then I’ll need to trouble you,’ Ling Fei said.

‘This is part of my duties,’ Shen Huang said. ‘If Lady Ling doesn’t need anything else then I’ll leave first.’

Shen Huang bowed and left Ling Fei’s chamber.

Ling Fei didn’t know what the empress dowager’s purpose was for asking her to stay in the empress’ chamber.

‘The emperor is here,’ a eunuch announce.

Na Lam entered Ling Fei’s chamber before she could compose herself. He stood in front of her in his gold clothes. Xiao Shun Tu stood behind him. She thought Xiao Shun Tu’s red eyes looked sleep deprived.

‘Why aren’t you kneeling in front of me?’ Na Lam asked.

Na Lam couldn’t wait to see Ling Fei so he visited her chamber before their agreed meeting.

Ling Fei yawned, slowly stood and knelt in front of Na Lam.

Na Lam crossed his arms and he looked down on Ling Fei. 'I want you to leave this chamber. I'll ask Xiao Shun Tu to arrange a different chamber for you.'

'Your majesty if you want me to leave this chamber then your majesty needs to ask the empress dowager,' Ling Fei said.

Of course Ling Fei wanted to leave the empress' chamber but she didn't want to look helpless in front of Na Lam.

'Don't think you can use imperial mother to threaten me,' Na Lam said. 'I'm the emperor. My orders are law. Anyone who dares to oppose my orders is opposing the law.'

'Does the empress dowager need to follow your majesty's orders too?' Ling Fei asked defiantly.

'You daring demoness,' Na Lam said. 'Do you dare to oppose me? Don't think because you have imperial mother's support you can spread your arms and become a phoenix. I'll never grant your wish.'

Ling Fei's heart was disgruntled. If her father didn't teach her to keep her promises then she wouldn't be involved with the troublesome Na Lam.

'Your majesty do you remember our agreement?' Ling Fei asked.

Na Lam's eyes lit up. 'Yes. I only need to defeat you in a dual.'

'If your majesty can defeat me in a dual then I'll willingly disappear,' Ling Fei said.

'Will you keep your promise and disappear after I defeat you in a dual?' Na Lam asked.

Na Lam didn't believe Ling Fei would easily let go of an opportunity to be his empress. It was a position many women desired.

'I always keep my promise,' Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei thought the palace was a vast ocean and somewhere she couldn't stay peacefully.

'Alright, it's a promise!' Na Lam said. 'If you break your word then you can't

blame me for punishing you.'

'It's a promise,' Ling Fei said.

A while later Shen Huang returned to Ling Fei's chamber and she was startled to see the emperor. She quickly knelt in front of the emperor.

'What are you doing?' Xiao Shun Tu asked Shen Huang.

Shen Huang's body shook. 'Shun Cong Cong asked me to serve Lady Ling.'

'If you have nothing to report then leave,' Xiao Shun Tu said. 'Can't you see the emperor is spending time with Lady Ling?'

'Yes Xiao Cong Cong,' Shen Huang said.

Shen Huang put the tray of food on a table and left Ling Fei's chamber.

Ling Fei thought Na Lam had no intentions of leaving the chamber. She glanced at the tray of plentiful food on the table and feared she would waste most of the food.

'Your majesty have you eaten a morning meal?' Ling Fei asked.

Na Lam didn't expect Ling Fei would ask him if had ate yet. 'Not yet.'

'Then shouldn't your majesty leave to eat a morning meal?' Ling Fei asked Ling Fei didn't know what Na Lam's purpose was to stand in front of her and glare at her with big wide angry eyes.

'You dare kick me out of this chamber?' Na Lam asked. 'The whole palace belongs to me. I can eat anywhere I want to in the palace. No one has the right to kick me out anywhere in the palace.'

Ling Fei suppressed her frustration. 'I only wanted your majesty to return to your chamber to satisfy your majesty's stomach so in the afternoon your majesty will have energy to fight with me.'

Na Lam thought the more Ling Fei wanted to kick him out of her chamber the more he didn't want to leave.

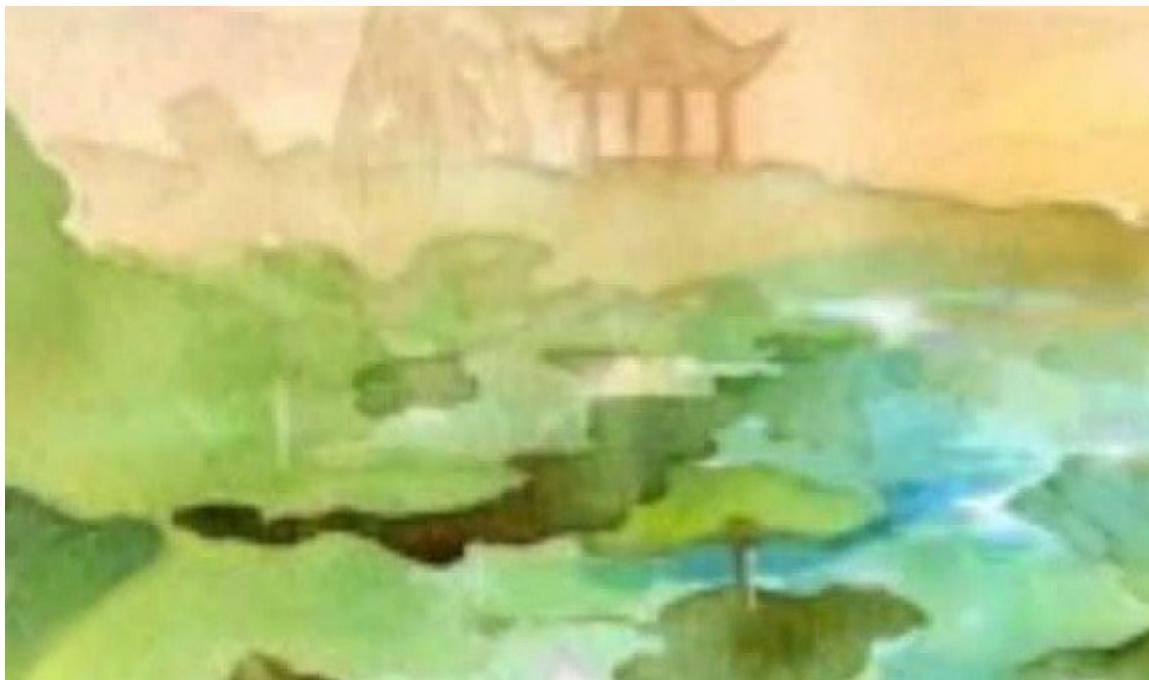
'I want to stay here and eat a meal,' Na Lam said. 'Is there a problem?'

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End of Chapter Five

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# Six



## Chapter Six

‘Your majesty it’s not right to eat here,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

‘Why can’t I eat here?’ Na Lam asked.

‘Your majesty...’ Xiao Shun Tu said pitifully.

‘Your majesty, Xiao Cong Cong is right,’ Ling Fei said. ‘Your majesty is the emperor. If your majesty eats with a commoner like me then it’ll dirty your majesty’s status.’

Ling Fei didn’t want to sit at the same table as Na Lam because she didn’t want to lose her appetite.

Na Lam purposely opposed Ling Fei’s opinion. ‘I want to eat a meal here. No one is allowed to oppose me. Xiao Shun Tu go and prepare my meal.’

‘Yes your majesty,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

Ling Fei’s eyes widened. Many palace maids entered the chamber and they put trays of food on the table. She was powerless to stop them. She was disappointed on the unruly and ungrateful emperor who was insensitive toward the needs of his citizens.

Xiao Shun Tu tested the food on the table with a pair of silver chopsticks.

‘Your majesty, your meal is ready,’ Xiao Shun Tu said.

Na Lam looked arrogantly at Ling Fei who sat opposite him at the table. ‘You’re the first person who is blessed enough to eat with me at the same table.’

‘Your majesty do you need me to kneel to show your majesty how grateful I am?’ Ling Fei asked mockingly.

Na Lam acted like he didn’t hear Ling Fei’s mocking tone. ‘You don’t need to kneel. It’s enough that you’re grateful inside your heart.’

Ling Fei almost choked on her own saliva. Na Lam had the thickest face she had seen. How could he be the emperor... he made another person want to punch him.

In the afternoon Na Lam and Ling Fei fought again.

‘Ah, my eye! Na Lam cried out.

Na Lam covered his right eye. It was painful enough for tears to fall out.

‘Your majesty!’ Xiao Shun Tu said. He ran to the emperor. ‘Let me see if your majesty is injured. Does your majesty want me to call an imperial physician?’

Ling Fei’s heart laughed at Na Lam’s black eye. ‘Xiao Cong Cong, you only need to boil an egg for the emperor, peel it and roll the boiled egg on the emperor’s eye. Besides I only used minimal force to fight with the emperor.’

Ling Fei thought outside the palace, a black eye was a minor injury.

‘The emperor’s body is fragile and his body can’t endure any injury,’ Xiao Shun Tu said. ‘Did you eat a sword? You dare to injure the emperor!’ He turned to the emperor and pleaded. ‘Your majesty don’t fight anymore and you should let an imperial physician examine you.’

Na Lam pushed Xiao Shun Tu out of the way. A pale green ring circled his right eye and his hair was messy.

‘Stand back!’ Na Lam said. ‘I still want to fight. I have to defeat her today.’

‘Your majesty is courageous,’ Ling Fei said.

Na Lam wasn’t going to let the demoness step on him again. ‘Alright, let’s fight again.’

A while later Na Lam lost to Ling Fei again.

Ling Fei wiped some sweat off her forehead with her sleeve. 'Your majesty's Kung Fu isn't on par with my Kung Fu. Even if your majesty fight with me again, your majesty can't defeat me. It's better if your majesty admit defeat.'

'I'm the emperor,' Na Lam said. 'I can't lower my head and admit defeat. I refuse to admit defeat!'

'Then your majesty can attack first again,' Ling Fei said.

Na Lam used all his strength left to kick Ling Fei's body.

'Ah!' Na Lam cried out.

Ling Fei shook her head. She moved her body and avoided Na Lam's kick. He lost his balance and fell on the ground.

'Your majesty...' Xiao Shun Tu said.

Xiao Shun Tu closed his eyes. He didn't have the heart to look at the emperor's pitiful state.

Na Lam's handsome face turned redder than a roasted pig. 'Why is it like this?'

'Your majesty do you want to continue fighting?' Ling Fei asked.

Na Lam clenched his teeth. Although his body was in pain he still stood straight.

'Today it appears I lost,' Na Lam said. 'Tomorrow we'll fight again. I'll defeat you before the wedding.'

Na Lam would lose his pride if he married Ling Fei who had stronger Kung Fu than him.

'I'll wait for your majesty to come here to fight again,' Ling Fei said.

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End of Chapter Six

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# Seven



## Chapter Seven

Xiao Shun Tu helped the deflated emperor stand.

The moment Na Lam was born his imperial father declared him the crown prince and many people spoiled him. Everyone wanted to gain his favor, scared to make him unhappy and didn't want him to experience failure. So being continuously defeated by the little girl Ling Fei was the first time in his life he had to endure countless failures.

After Na Lam and Xiao Shun Tu left, Que Cong Cong arrived at the imperial guards' courtyard.

'Are you Lady Ling?' Que Cong Cong asked.

'I am,' Ling Fei said.

'The empress dowager requests Lady Ling's presence in her chamber,' Que Cong Cong said.

Que Cong Cong led Ling Fei to the empress dowager's chamber full of a strong

floral incense fragrance.

Ling Fei bowed to the empress dowager who wore an elegant white dress.

The empress dowager smiled and raised her hand. 'Ling Fei, you can sit.'

'Thank you empress dowager,' Ling Fei said.

'Ling Fei, I heard Xiao Shun Tu said earlier you hit and kicked my son,' empress dowager said. 'Is it true?'

Although Na Lam was the empress dowager's son, she regretted she didn't get to witness her son's fall.

'Empress dowager... I...' Ling Fei stuttered.

'Ling Fei, you don't need to be scared,' empress dowager said. 'I'm not reprimanding you. I'm praising you. You hit and kicked my son well. In the world no one else would dare to hit my son. You're the first person. I think my son must be feeling frustrated.'

Ling Fei was surprised the empress dowager wasn't angry at her.

'Ling Fei do you think my reaction is unusual?' empress dowager asked. 'It's true a mother would sympathise with their child's pain. But my son is different to other people. It's his imperial father, his imperial grandma and my fault for spoiling him too much. He's temperamental and often threaten to behead people. But he hasn't behead you even though you've hit him. It shows there is still hope for him to change for the better.'

The empress dowager's eyes were teary. She was happy her son finally began to change.

Ling Fei's frightened heart relaxed.

'Empress dowager, I promise I'll use all my abilities to help the emperor,' Ling Fei said.

The empress dowager dabbed the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief.

'It's enough for me to hear your promise,' empress dowager said.

'But there is something I need to clarify with empress dowager,' Ling Fei said.

The empress dowager understood and she gently patted Ling Fei's hand.

‘Is it about yours and my son’s betrothal?’ empress dowager asked. ‘I know this betrothal is unfair on you. But if I didn’t tell my son about it then he wouldn’t take the bait. Since the betrothal was announced, he’s been practicing Kung Fu properly compared to the past. He’s prideful since he was a little boy. He wouldn’t have expected to lose to a young woman like you. He wants to improve his Kung Fu so in the future he can raise his head in front of you. His life’s been too smooth. He needs challenges to improve himself.’

‘I understand,’ Ling Fei said.

Ling Fei understood it wasn’t the right time for her to retreat.

‘Then I’ll need to trouble you,’ empress dowager said.

Ling Fei was persuaded by the empress dowager’s maternal words and she decided to continue opposing Na Lam.

Que Cong Cong escorted Ling Fei to her chamber then he returned to the empress dowager’s chamber.

‘Empress dowager it appears you chose Lady Ling because you believe she and the emperor will love each other,’ Que Cong Cong said.

The empress dowager smiled. ‘You can see their connection too? I truly love Ling Fei. She isn’t from a prominent family but she is someone with good principles. It’s rare to meet someone like her. Gentle bred ladies from prominent families can’t compare to her. It’s my son’s blessing to have an empress like Ling Fei.’

The empress dowager reminisced about Ling Fei’s parents in the past.

‘I remember Ling Fei’s father, Cong Sun Huang’s heroic deeds were famous in the past,’ empress dowager said. ‘After he married Ling Fei’s mother, Jiang Thi, he and Jiang Thi lived a reclusive life. He was happy to live with Jiang Thi on a mountain and make a living as a hunter. Years ago while he was hunting he saved my husband’s life. Afterward they became sworn brothers. My husband was happy and grateful to have a sincere friend like Cong Sun Huang. My husband snuck out of the palace often to see Cong Sun Huang. No one expected someone would kill Cong Sun Huang...’

The empress dowager remembered a recent memory. She visited an ordinary

house...

‘Is it here?’ empress dowager asked. ‘Go inside and see if they are here.’

‘Yes empress dowager,’ the imperial guard said.

The imperial guard knocked on the door and Jiang Thi opened the door.

‘Ah!’ Jiang Thi cried out.

The imperial guard kept the door open.

Jiang Thi moved back two steps. She was frightened to see many armed men.

‘Who are you people... want do you people want?’ Jiang Thi asked.

‘Jiang Thi, you don’t need to be scared,’ empress dowager said. ‘I won’t let anyone harm you.’

Jiang Thi wasn’t comforted by the lady in the elegant white dress. She had lived a reclusive life for many years and she didn’t expect anyone would recognise her.

‘How... how do you know me?’ Jiang Thi asked.

The empress dowager gestured for the imperial guards to stand back to reassure Jiang Thi they didn’t intend to harm Jiang Thi.

‘Jiang Thi have you forgotten me?’ empress dowager asked.

‘You... you’re...’ Jiang Thi stuttered. She vaguely recognised the gentle voice.  
‘You’re... the empress...’

Jiang Thi remembered she met the empress dowager once many years ago.

‘Jiang Thi, you finally remembered me,’ empress dowager said. ‘My son is no longer the crown prince. He’s the emperor and I’ve become the empress dowager.’

Jiang Thi’s whole body trembled and she knelt in front of the empress dowager.

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End of Chapter Seven

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